GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4957
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
PAKISTAN SHELTERING TERRORISTS
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is sheltering terrorists as mentioned in a US report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) whether both India and USA have urged Pakistan to desist from terrorist activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHR1 AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Annual Report of the US State Department for 1999 on Patterns of Global Terrorism, which was released in April 2000, states that `credible reports continued to indicate official Pakistani support for Kashmiri militant groups that engage in terrorism, such as Harkat ul-Mujahidin(HUM)....Kashmiri extremist groups continued to operate in Pakistan, raising funds and recruiting new cadre. The groups were responsible for numerous terrorist attacks in 1999 against civilian targets in India- held Kashmir and elsewhere in India`.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Government has consistently maintained that Pakistan must end its sponsorship of and support to cross-border terrorism against India.

The US has on number of occasions stated that it has asked Pakistan to take steps to crack down on terrorist groups operating from Pakistan. On the eve of his visit to Islamabad in March 2000, the US President had stated that the objective of his visit was to discuss with the regime in Pakistan, among other issues, a crackdown on terrorist groups. At a Hearing of the House International Relations Committee of the US Congress on 12th July 2000, the US State Department Coordinator for Counter-terrorism stated that `Pakistar has tolerated terrorists living and moving freely within its territory. Numerous Kashmiri separatist groups and sectarian groups involved in terrorism use Pakistan as a base... President Clinton and, most recently, Under Secretary Pickering both travelled to Pakistan to reinforce tough messages on terrorism and other key concerns.`

India and the United States have also institutionalised their cooperation to combat international terrorism through a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism.